Lauren Marston

Mini-Lesson:

Adapted from: Plot Structure: A Literary Elements Mini-Lesson;

Author: [Traci Gardner](http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/author_detail.asp?authorid=3&lessonid=904), Blacksburg, Virginia

[www.readwritethink.org](http://www.readwritethink.org)

Plot Structure: Freytag’s Pyramid

Purpose of the Lesson:

1. To understand basic plot structure
2. Identify the plot structure of the short story “The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allan Poe (which we just read)
3. Use our understanding to start our own creative writing essay about Immigration

Steps of Lesson:

1. Introduce students to plot structure:
   1. Distribute Plot Structure hand out (ReadWriteThink.org)
   2. Plot structure is used for more than just the literature that you read in class. It is used in oral storytelling, television, movies, and more.
2. Use “The Tell Tale-Heart” as all-class example.
   1. Put on overhead blank Freytag Pyramid
   2. Fill out as a class
      1. What did the author need to explain to readers in the exposition section?
      2. What inciting event causes the action to begin to “rise”?
      3. Where does the story peak? Is there a clear climax?
      4. Which events lead up to the conclusion?
      5. How is the story resolved?
   3. Any questions?
3. Show picture of immigrants; give class time to think and start on “exposition” part of own essay.
   1. Our next unit is going to be focused in Immigration. To kick off the new unit, I want you to start thinking about the creative story you will be writing for the Unit Assessment.
   2. This picture is just to get your imaginations going. All I want you to do is start thinking about the back-story or “Exposition” part of your paper. Don’t worry you have plenty of time to re-write or edit later, just think about the beginning.
4. Class share – What did you come up with?